(c) and (d) The Government of India has been liberally funding the State Government for implementing various schemes for handloom weavers to address the felt needs of the handloom weavers to enhance their production, productivity and enhance the income and social economic status of the weavers by providing skill up-gradation, infrastructure and input supply support to them. During the 11th Five Year Plan, the Office of Development Commissioner for Handlooms has been implementing 5 Schemes *viz.* (1) Integrated Handlooms Development Schemes, (2) handlooms Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme which consisted of Health Insurance Scheme and Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojna, (3) Mill Gate Price Scheme, (4) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme, (5) diversified Handloom Development Scheme.

The Government of India is implementing Integrated Handloom Development scheme since 2007-08 for Integrated and holistic development of the handloom clusters. As per the Scheme, the cluster should have 300-500 looms and is to be developed in a time frame of three years at an upper cost of Rs. 60.00 lakh per cluster. One of the components of the Scheme is "Corpus Fund for Setting-up of yarn Depot", for which financial assistance of Rs. 3.00 lakh provided to ensure supply of yarn to the handloom weavers through the yarn depot at the cluster. Under the Scheme, so far 367 clusters have been sanctioned.

The Government of India is also implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme since 1992-93 with the objective of providing all types of yarn to the eligible Handloom Weavers at mill gate price. The Scheme is being implemented through National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC). The expenditure involved for transporting the yarn from the Mill Gate to the Godown of the handloom agencies is reimbursed to the handloom agencies. At present, yarn is being supplied under Mill Gate Price Scheme throughout the country through 485 Yarn Depots. During the year 2007-08, 687.46 lakh kgs. of yarn has been supplied.

The Government of India is implementing Health Insurance Scheme from 2005-06. The scheme covers not only the weaver but his wife and two children also. The ancillary handloom workers like those engaged in warping, winding, dyeing., printing, finishing, sizing, Jhala making, Jacquard cutting etc. are also eligible to be covered under the scheme. The scheme covers all pre-existing diseases as well as new diseases and a substantial provision has been kept for OPD. The annual limit per family is Rs. 15,000/- out of which OPD cover will be Rs. 7500/-. During the year 2007-08, 17.74 lakh weavers have been enrolled under the Health Insurance Scheme.

Status of implementation of Assam Accord

*122. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had fulfilled all its obligations as committed through the Assam Accord, 1985;

(b) if so, the status about each of the obligation fulfilled till June, 2008 and to be fulfilled, with specific time limit;

(c) whether all safeguards are provided in terms of clause 6 of the Accord;

(d) if so, the details of status on each safeguard promised;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the target set for each;

(f) the specific promise made for the preparation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) during tripartite meeting held in 2005 and its status till August, 2008; and

(g) the reasons for delay and target set?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) and (b) The Government has taken action to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. Certain provisions of the Accord *e.g.*, measures to prevent infiltration, speedy all round economic development of Assam, etc., are of continuous nature and therefore, need to be monitored regularly. The Government has been holding meetings with Government of Assam and representatives of all Assam Students Union (AASU) to review the implementation of various clauses of the Accord. Present status indicating clause wise implementation of the Accord is enclosed as statement (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The Government of Assam has constituted a 'Committee of Ministers' to examine all issues relating to the Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, considered necessary to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of Assam People as per clause 6 of the Accord. The Committee has held several meetings but no timeframe can be indicated by which time the Committee would be in a position to submit its report.

(f) and (g) The Government of Assam has taken steps for updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) 1951 on the basis of the relevant records. It had submitted modalities for updation of NRC in June, 2008 and these were discussed with the officials of the State Government on several occasions and last discussions took place on 17th November, 2008 at Guwahati. Steps are being taken to ensure that the work of updation is undertaken at the earliest.

Statement

Clause-wise implementation status of Assam accord

Clause 5-Foreigners ISSUE:

(i) The Citizenship Act, 1955, Citizenship Rules, 1956 and the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, were amended.

(ii) Special Registration Officers have been appointed for registration of persons detected as foreigners who entered Assam between 1.1.1966 to 24.3.71.

(iii) A total of 3153 including 1280 additional posts, sanctioned under Prevention of infiltration of Foreigners (PIF) scheme to assist State Government and Border

Security Force (BSF) in detection and deportation of foreigners/illegal migrants and act as a second line of defence.

(iv) Thirty-two Foreigners Tribunals have been constituted in the State of Assam under the provisions of Foreigners Act, 1946 for detection of illegal migrants/foreigners. A total of 30,133 persons have been declared as foreigners in the pre-1971 stream and 1,245 persons in the post-1971 stream till June, 2008.

Clause 6 and 7 - Safeguards and economic development:

(v) A Cultural Centre called the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalashetra Complex has been established.

(vi) Sri Jyoti Chitraban (Film) Studio at Guwahati has been modernized. Additional Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned for further expansion/modernization of the Institute in the financial year 2006-07.

(vii) The Government of Assam has constituted a Committee of Ministers in October 2006 to examine all issues relating to the Implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

(viii) Numaligarh Refinery was set up at a cost of nearly Rs. 2,500 crores.

(ix) Two Central Universities, one at Tejpur, and the other at Silchar, have been set up.

(x) An IIT has been set up at Guwahati.

(xi) Kathalguri Power Project (60 MW) has been commissioned.

(xii) Work for implementation of Assam Gas Cracker Project and Bogibeel rail-cum road project have started.

Clause 8 to 14 - Other Issues:

(xiii) The power to issue citizenship certificates now vests only with the Central Government.

(xiv) As on 31.10.2008, out of 3286.87 KM fencing sanctioned along Indo-Bangladesh border, 2631.39 KM of border fence has been completed. In Assam sector, out of 223 kilometer (Phase I & II) of sanctioned fencing along Indo-Bangladesh Border 214.00 KM has been completed. Since the fencing erected under Phase-I had outlived its life, therefore, it is being replaced with a composite type fencing.

(xv) *Ex-gratia* payment was made to the next of kin of persons killed in the course of the agitation.

(xvi) Disciplinary cases against employees in connection with the agitation were reviewed.

(xvii) In the matter of recruitment, order were issued by the Central Government for relaxation in upper age imit upto a maximum of six years in the case of candidates

who had ordinarily resided in the State of Assam during the period 1.1.1980 to 15.8.1985.

(xviii) NSA detenues detained in connection with agitation were released.

Impact of international economic meltdown on Indian economy

†*123. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to international economic meltdown several Indian industries have started decreasing their production;

(b) if so, the details of such industries;

(c) whether these industries were requested to reduce prices of their products instead of decreasing or stopping production;

(d) if so, the reaction of the industries thereto; and

(e) the details of industries wherein measures have been taken by Government so far to reduce production cost?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) The international economic meltdown has affected the export oriented industries in India, such as textiles, handicrafts, leather, gems and jewellery etc. Slowdown in the demand for industries such as automobiles and its ancillaries, cement, steel, housing sector etc. has also been seen.

The Government closely interacts with the Industry and Trade Associations to address issues relating to industrial development, and monitors production and prices. The prices of industrial products and the level of production are determined primarily by the interplay of market forces.

A number of steps have been taken by the Government to stimulate the demand in the economy with the objective to address the impact of global financial crisis:

- **Reduction in Cenvat/Excise duty** : As an immediate measure to encourage additional spending, an across-the-board cut of 4% in the ad valorem CENVAT rate except petroleum.
- **Measures to Support Exports** : Several measures have been taken to support exporters such as:
  - Interest subvention of 2% for pre and post shipment export credit for labour intensive industries such as textiles, handlooms, handicrafts, leather, Gems and jewellery, marine products and Small and Medium Enterprise sector.
  - Additional funds of Rs. 1100 crore to ensure full refund of Terminal Excise duty/Central Sales Tax.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.